GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1547
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2007
IMPORT OF WASTE
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Nikhil Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allowed the importers to import various types of waste;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has recently asked the Government to come out with a comprehensive policy on various types of waste imports;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether large quantity of wastes like plastic, glass, junk food waste etc. are being imported in the country;

(f) if so, the total quantity of various types of waste imported with its value during each of the last three years, country-wise; and

g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ban the import of such wastes in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (g) : Import of hazardous waste into India is subject to the provisions of Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Amendment Rules, 1989, as amended in years 2000 and 2003. No hazardous wastes are allowed to be imported in the country for dumping and disposal. However, such wastes which are recyclable are permitted for import on, a case to cases basis, to the registered re-cycling units. Further, import of hazardous waste or substances containing or contaminated with such hazardous waste as specified in Schedule 8 of Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989, as amended in years 2003, is prohibited.

The category-wise and country-wise imports are given in the publication `Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India; Volume-II (Imports) Annual Number` published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, which is available in the library of the Parliament.

Central Board of Excise and Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance has reported an instance of attempt to import a consignment of waste paper mixed with plastic waste, bottle waste, sanitary waste, etc. at Cochin. The consignment was confiscated and ordered to be re-exported on payment of fine and penalty. The importer has paid the fine and penalty and consignment has been re-exported to the supplier on 29.10.2007. The Department of Revenue is maintaining close watch with Pollution Control authorities in dealing with such consignment.

Hon`ble Supreme Court has passed an Order on 23rd October, 2007, with the directions to work out modalities for dealing with waste oil/ used oil and to submit a comprehensive report.